

2 RECORD OF THE CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION

One would expect that a party coming into power with such a horror of extravagance would have proceeded at once to cut down the public expenditure. But no! It was soon discovered that the new "economical" administration needed more money to carry on the government than did the old "extravagant" Liberal administration; and instead of decreasing, the cost of government INCREASED steadily from the very outset, until last session the total vote for all purposes actually reached the sum of \$13,687,341, an increase of more than eight million dollars over the "vast expenditure" which Conservatives denounced so vigorously eight years ago. And this, in spite of the fact that the population of the Province has not largely increased in the meantime.

In spite of this startling increase in provincial expenditure, the majority of the public departments are conducted far less efficiently than under the Liberal rule.

Under Sir Oliver Mowat the school system of Ontario was admitted to rank among the most efficient in the world. It has fallen into a state of helpless disorganization under the present Minister of Education, owing to the scarcity of teachers, the lack of technical education, the Government's failure to deal intelligently with bi-lingual schools, the granting of temporary certificates to unqualified teachers, and numerous other acts of incapacity.

Despite the sums expended on agricultural colleges, agriculture in this grand old farming province is admittedly decadent; it is estimated that the rural population (excluding New Ontario) has decreased by 100,000 in the last ten years. Instead of taking vigorous steps to retain its farming popula-